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BROOKLYN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPER
The Brooklyn Papers
FOR 25 YEARS

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Keyspan concerts

Coney stadium to host Bjork, others

By Patrick Gallahe
The Brooklyn Papers

Coney Island's minor league baseball stadium, Keyspan Park, is getting ready to announce some major league acts this summer.

The only announced performance thus far is Icelandic pop diva Bjork, on Aug. 22, although Josh Young, founder of Brooklyn Boyz Produc-

tions, which is promoting the events, has said in published reports that he hopes to bring at least 20 concerts to Keyspan Park between mid-May and early August.

Bjork tickets will be on sale exclusively on her Web site, www.bjork.com, until April 11, at which time they will also be available through Ticketmaster.

Steve Cohen, general man-

ager of both the stadium and the Brooklyn Cyclones, which play their single-A season at Keyspan Park from June through the beginning of September, declined to discuss the plans but said something is coming soon.

"Nothing has been finalized or formalized but we hope within the next two weeks to have something to announce. See **CONCERTS** on page 7

Gardens medic survives bullet

By Patrick Gallahe
The Brooklyn Papers

Thomas Smith Jr., a 21-year-old Navy medic with the 1st Marine Division in Iraq, displayed great heroism and narrowly escaped death this week when he was shot in the chest while trying to save lives in Iraq.

Smith was able to brush off what should have been a fatal blow when the round deflected off his bullet-proof Kevlar vest.

Smith, who grew up in Carroll Gardens and whose parents still live there, was among the 14,000 troops of the lead division that stormed Baghdad this week.

On April 4, the young corpsman rushed into an ambush after an M1 tank was destroyed by an Iraqi missile. Smith and Cpl. Luke Holden raced their ambulance to the flaming tank as it lay disabled in the road. The Iraqis, however, began firing on the am-



Thomas Smith Jr.

bulance and Holden, the driver, was hit in the face. Smith pulled Holden from the vehicle but the corporal was shot in his other hand during the escape.

Nearby, another captain was shot in the face, according to the New York Times, whose embedded reporter recounted the details. Smith began treating sol-

diers, Americans and Iraqis alike, on the scene and told the Times, "All the stretchers were full of blood. I was shooting guys with morphine. Pretty much all of them had gunshot wounds."

Then Smith felt a bullet hit his chest. It ricocheted off, leaving his vest with a large hole.

During a lull in the fighting the next day, Smith used a satellite phone to call his parents on Laquer Street. It was 2 a.m. when the phone rang, said his mother, Joann Smith.

"He said to me, 'Mom just remember, there's going to be a thing in the paper so I want you to be OK when you read it,'" Joann Smith told The Brooklyn Papers. "As long as I can speak to him and he's going to be OK, I'll hang in there."

His father, Thomas Smith Sr., longtime director of the Saint Mary Star of the Sea church sports program, while

See **ALIVE** on page 4



The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Cohen



The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Cohen

April showers?

Two weeks into spring 2003, you couldn't blame the flowers for being a little confused. Winter wasn't done just yet, dumping about 5 inches of snow on April 7, burying the emerging blooms and turning Clinton Street in Cobble Hill (below) into a white-capped wonderland.



The Brooklyn Papers / Greg M. Shapiro

OK to new Slope zoning

The Brooklyn Papers

The City Planning Commission this week voted in favor of a proposal to institute height limits in Park Slope without affixing a controversial proposal to include affordable housing in the plan.

The vote was 11-2, with two commissioners, William Grinker and Karen Phillips, the only ones to oppose the plan. Both thought there should be greater consideration for the inclusion of affordable housing.

The application now goes before the City Council's Land Use committee.

"I want to find a way to work this out," said Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio. "But it must include affordable housing and that's the way the council will feel."

See **ZONING** on page 4

Local firehouses to close

By Patrick Gallahe
The Brooklyn Papers

A firehouse in Cobble Hill and one in Sunset Park will be closed to help tighten the city's budget gap.

A commission appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the City Council and the Fire Department, this week ruled in favor of the mayor's proposal to close five Brooklyn firehouses, one in Manhattan and two in Queens.

Among the firehouses that will be closed are Engine Company 204 in Cobble Hill, on Degraw Street between Court and Smith streets, and Engine Company 278 in Sunset Park, on Seventh Avenue between 50th and 51st streets.

Local elected officials met the ruling

with disdain and a pledge to protest the closings.

"You think you've seen protests now? You ain't seen nothin' yet," said Councilman Bill DeBlasio, who rallied a small group to protest outside Engine 204 on Monday afternoon.

The commission's 5-2 vote defied multiple protests held outside the firehouses since the cost-cutting move was announced by Bloomberg late last year.

"This decision makes absolutely no sense," said Borough President Marty Markowitz. "The tragic events of 9-11 graphically illustrated that our firefighters are New York City's first line of defense, so we can never do anything that will make our city more vulnerable to attack. See **CLOSED** on page 6



Councilmen David Yassky and Bill DeBlasio flank activist Lori Burch, who holds a photo of Engine 204's truck buried at Ground Zero, at Monday's protest.

Cops eye Monty Bomber 3

By Patrick Gallahe
The Brooklyn Papers

Police would not rule out any of three possible suspects this week in the investigation of a bizarre incident in which pipe bombs were found in a police officer's sport utility vehicle, right outside her Brooklyn Heights home — which was targeted by a pipe bomber two years ago.

At the core of the investigation are the female police officer and her husband, and a former family friend who is behind bars for setting off a bomb in their apartment building in May 2001.

An investigator told The Brooklyn Papers this week that there are a number of theories that are being pursued, although he declined to elaborate.

Police have pulled records of correspondence for Stephen Alster, who was convicted of perpetrating the 2001 bombing, from the Green Haven Correctional Facility upstate, to check who had contact with him since his 20 years-to-life sentence began last May.

In addition, the New York Post reported that the apartment belonging to Steven and Yenny Thomas, both 33, at 68 Montague St., was searched for fragments of PVC tubing, which was used to make the inoperative bombs discovered in her SUV.

Shortly after 10 a.m. on March 31, five PVC pipes filled with gasoline and Sheetrock screws, as well as a .357-caliber revolver and a .380-caliber automatic were discovered in the backseat of Police Officer Yenny Thomas' 1992 Isuzu, which was parked in a fire zone in front of her home on Montague Street between

See **BOMBING** on page 8



The Brooklyn Papers / Soni Cohen

The ailing young seal found grounded in Red Hook near the Gowanus Canal Tuesday.

Seal of approval

Marine mammal jumps ashore in Hook

By Patrick Gallahe
The Brooklyn Papers

The tale of a seal seen swimming in the increasingly less toxic Gowanus Canal has become locally anyway — a kind of urban Yeti.

On Tuesday, however, a 40-pound harp seal — native to the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans — jumped ashore in Red Hook. The seal planted itself on property abutting the Port of New York Grain Elevator Terminal, where the Gowanus Canal flows out into the Gowanus Bay.

At around 10 a.m., John Quadrozzi, president of the

Gowanus Industrial Park at the end of Columbia Street, was showing the Grain Terminal to a contractor, when they saw the seal swimming around the dock. He got into his truck to buy the seal some squid to eat but when he returned, the seal had jumped ashore.

The marine mammal ate a bit of snow, paying no attention to the squid, and then slithered its way under a suspended, corrugated steel conveyor belt attached to the long-dormant silos.

Noticing that the seal appeared hurt, Quadrozzi called the New York Aquarium, which dispatched two specialists.

By 3 p.m., the seal appeared

incapacitated, although it showed no visible injuries. The animal lay in a corner on its right side for several hours, atop bricks, trash and broken glass, as steam rose from its pelt on the unseasonably frigid spring afternoon. The only move it made, was to raise its left flipper as if to wave.

The specialists from the Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs the New York Aquarium as well as the city's zoos, estimated the seal to be a little over a year old.

Kate McClave, a lab services manager for the conservation society, was unsure of the seal's ailments but said the be-

See **SEAL** on page 8

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Cultures and medicine at Methodist

New York Methodist Hospital

What does being African-American, Russian or Muslim have to do with a herniated disk, kidney stone or a respiratory problem?

A new program for resident physicians in the Department of Medicine at New York Methodist Hospital provides a forum for the discussion of the impact of cultural and religious backgrounds on medical care.

Each month, community leaders and hospital staff

members of all stripes are invited to discuss aspects of their own culture that could affect the medical care of patients.

Steven Wallerstein, MD, vice chairman of medicine, who spearheaded the program at New York Methodist Hospital, explained that knowledge about a patient's culture

could be invaluable to help that patient.

For instance, patients who shy away from asking questions because their culture discourages confrontation may need more encouragement to talk openly and ask questions about important issues such as medication doses, Dr. Wallerstein said.

Peter Poulos, director of pastoral care at Methodist explained how culture could impact a patient's care.

"Medical professionals need to be aware of calendars. They may have patients who are fasting for Ramadan, Yom Kippur or Advent," he said.

Cultural awareness may also help health care profes-

sionals counsel their patients about issues such as diet. A Greek patient, for instance, may be advised to avoid feta cheese if he is given a no salt diet.

The resident physicians at Methodist have met with representatives from several cultural groups. The first speaker was Rabbi Edgar Gluck, an

Orthodox rabbi and a community leader. Next, The Rev. Ernest Jones, an African-American minister from Greenwood Baptist Church, spoke about African-Americans and American Protestants. Farida Khan, MD, medical director of the Diabetes Resources and Education Center at Methodist, and a Muslim, discussed cultural and religious variations within the Islamic faith. More speakers from other religious and cultural backgrounds are scheduled.

Following each talk, resident physicians, who come from different backgrounds, discuss issues raised by the speaker and apply them to their own experiences with culture and medicine.

"Helping patients in a diverse society requires a lot more than medical expertise," said Poulos. "If we want to be effective in what we do, we can't use a one-size-fits-all approach."

New endoscopy suite at Cornell

New York Presbyterian Hospital

Weill Cornell Medical Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital has opened a new, state-of-the-art endoscopy suite in order to promote and practice gastrointestinal health.

The unique "high touch-high tech" suite, located in the Greenberg Pavilion at Weill Cornell Medical Center, is directed by Dr. Mark Pochapin, chief of gastrointestinal endoscopy at Weill Cornell.

"This new facility offers the best in preventive and cutting-edge treatments in a humanistic setting," said Dr. Pochapin, who is also associate professor of clinical medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. "Patients will receive the latest innovative care in a comfortable and aesthetically pleasing setting."

Music will be integrated into care with stereo sound built into the facility's private rooms. Patients can choose from the suite's collection of calming music or bring their own. Each room will also have a New York theme, such as Central Park and Times Square.

All endoscopies at Weill Cornell, as many as 10,000 per year, will be performed in the new suite. Procedures offered will include upper endoscopies, colonoscopies, endoscopic ultrasound with needle biopsies, stent placement, Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), stricture dilatation, argon plasma coagulation and fluoroscopy.

The suite features state-of-the-art gastrointestinal facilities

and equipment, including digital imaging, computer-generated reports, and flat-screen monitors. It is also located in close proximity to the medical center's operating room and intensive care unit, allowing for quick transfer in cases of critical care.

Pochapin is highly esteemed for his humanistic teaching and compassionate caregiving, for which he has

received numerous awards and honors. He is also director of the newly established Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health, named after the late husband of television personality Katie Couric, and like the endoscopy suite, characterized by integrated, multidisciplinary, compassionate care provided under one roof in an aesthetically pleasing and humanistic setting.

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Boro rallies to support troops

By **Beverley Wang**
for The Brooklyn Papers

Supporters of the American and coalition troops in Iraq, many decked out in yellow ribbons and stars and stripes, rallied under sunny skies Sunday at John Paul Jones Park.

Led by Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst elected officials, roughly 800 men, women and children came out to the park near Fort Hamilton to raise their voices in praise of American service men and women, and of President George W. Bush.

"We need to send an unmistakable, unambiguous message to the troops," said Rep. Vito Fossella, who emceed the event wearing a brown Air Force bomber jacket.

Chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A," and "America, love it or leave it" erupted as Fossella pumped up the crowd, shouting: "We uphold the U.S. Constitution, not the U.N. charter!"

"We are the greatest country in the world because of the men and women who are willing to wear [an American military] uniform," said Fossella. "These men and women need our support while they put themselves in harm's way."

Frigid temperatures on the first Sunday in April did not deter the throng of family members, friends and other military boosters who gathered for an afternoon of spirited — at times impassioned — songs, speeches, chants and prayer.

Fossella spokesman Craig Donner said police at the rally gave an unofficial estimate of between 800 and 1,000 attendees. Of those, just six held antiwar placards.

And while parents, spouses and siblings of military men and women acknowledged that no one can guarantee the safe return of their loved ones, they said that public support for the troops is a gratifying change from earlier antiwar demonstrations, which many interpreted as anti-troop and anti-American.

"Hell yeah, especially since it's a volunteer army," said Bianca Trujillo, when asked if she felt hurt by antiwar statements. Trujillo, 26, has three times the reason to show troop support. Not only is the Queens native an officer of Fort Hamilton's military police force, but her boyfriend and brother are currently serving in the Persian Gulf.

Dressed in military-issue fatigues and beret, Trujillo said, "Protesters" have the right to have an opinion but not to be critical of us. We're just doing what we're told, and us fighting this war gives them the freedom



Rep. Vito Fossella addresses the crowd at Sunday's Rally for America at John Paul Jones Park in Bay Ridge.

'Relay for life' at local colleges

By **Deborah Kolben**
The Brooklyn Papers

It's not often that New Yorkers get the chance to unroll their sleeping bags and fall asleep beneath the stars.

But at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, they get to do just that.

Every June for the past 18 years, thousands nationwide have joined the all-night event where teams of people taking turns walking or running around a track, grill hot dogs, play games, honor cancer survivors, support cancer research and raise funds for the organization.

The event has spread to 3,300 communities in the United States and eight other countries.

Brooklyn joined five years ago with its first site event at Poly Prep Country Day School, on Seventh Avenue at 92nd Street in Bay Ridge. The number of participants has grown over the years and last year 450 people raised almost \$89,000 at Poly Prep alone.

Because of its success, another site was added last year at Wingate Park in East Flatbush. That site attracted 200 people who raised \$36,000.

Mary Pride, a 10-year cancer survivor said her family thought she was crazy when she told them she was going to spend the night in the park last year. "But it was wonderful," Pride told a small crowd of people who gathered at Long Island University's Downtown Brooklyn campus to learn more about participating in and volunteering for Relay for Life.

Because of the event's success, Long Island University was added as the newest Relay for Life site in Brooklyn, making it the third in Brooklyn and 11th citywide. The Wingate Park site should be moving to Brooklyn College this year, organizers said.

Danielle Rouchon, director of special events for the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society, said one of the most moving aspects of Relay for Life is the Luminaria Ceremony, where candles are lit to represent the "lives affected by cancer, and hope for the future."

The first lap around the track is done by cancer survivors.

An estimated 86,000 people in New York State and 1.3 million nationwide will develop

op cancer in 2003, according to American Cancer Society statistics.

Brooklyn's Relay for Life events will be held at Poly Prep June 7-8, at Long Island University on DeKalb Avenue at Flatbush Avenue, June 21-22 and at Brooklyn College on Bedford Avenue at Campus Road, June 28-29.

For more information or to register for the event, contact the American Cancer Society at (800) ACS-2345.

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Busted for burglars gone bust

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

After failing, possibly as many as three times, to get into homes in Brooklyn Heights, the night got even worse for an inept burglar after he was busted for his wasted efforts, police said.

On April 4, a woman, 47, was sleeping in her home on State Street, between Sydney Place and Clinton Street, when she woke up shortly before 4 a.m. to find a man attempting to open her rear window. She screamed and he ran — but his

Police Blotters

night was not over yet.

Next door, a man, 33, woke up at 4:20 a.m. to find someone on his window ledge trying to get past the blinds. When the victim yelled, the suspect took off again.

Police arrived to find a man in the backyard of the homes on State Street and took him into custody.

According to police, there was an incident earlier that night on Clinton Street, be-

tween Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, that matches the profileless modus operandi of the suspect, and its possible links are being investigated. Police said that in that incident, sometime between 10 p.m. and 5:20 a.m., a burglar failed to break into a 45-year-old woman's apartment.

Candy 'n' butts

A thief apparently bent on bad health stole \$7,500 worth of candy and cigarettes from a

van at Eighth Avenue between Lincoln Place and Berkeley Place.

The van, which belonged to a tobacco wholesaler, was parked at around 4:45 p.m. on April 4, and left unattended by the 29-year-old driver for just a few minutes. He returned moments later to find the leaf and the sweets stolen.

Hungry punks

A 49-year-old Chinese-food deliveryman was robbed of his edibles on Berkeley Place between Fifth and Sixth avenues on April 5.

According to police, the victim was making a delivery when he fell prey to a hostile and hungry gang of armed robbers. He was allegedly surrounded by three boys, one of who pulled the food away and punched him in the face. The gluttonous gang then took off on Berkeley Place.

Police picked up three suspects, ages 14 to 15, during a search of the area.

School robbed

A school on Carroll Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, was robbed of two computers valued at \$2,000.

According to police, on March 28, the school was locked up for the weekend at around 4:30 p.m. When classes resumed on March 31, at

Mac attack

A man was arrested April 2 trying to climb through the drive-through window of a McDonald's on Tillary Street, between Duffield and Gold streets.

According to police, the suspect threatened an 18-year-old man in the driveway with a knife before he stormed the fast food restaurant at around 11:30 p.m. When officers arrived, the 44-year-old suspect allegedly resisted arrest.

In addition to finding the knife, cops discovered two warrants for the suspect's arrest.

ZONING...

Continued from page 1

DeBlasio added that affordable housing is an issue that affects the constituents of most council members.

City Planning Director Amanda Burden, whose agency put forth the rezoning proposal, has already warned that the addition of affordable housing as a condition of higher zoning along Fourth Avenue could send it back to the drawing board for a whole new land use review.

The application proposes rezoning almost all of the area between Union and 15th streets from Prospect Park West to just short of Fourth Avenue, to R8B, limiting building height to 50 feet. Fourth Avenue, from Warren Street to 15th Street, would be rezoned to R8A, which would allow for buildings as high as 120 feet.

DeBlasio, Downtown Brooklyn-Park Slope Councilman David Yassky and Sunset Park Councilwoman San Gonzalez, all support an amendment spearheaded by the Fifth Avenue Committee, to limit building heights on Fourth Av-

enue to 80 feet to create room for the future inclusion of affordable housing incentives to developers.

An "inclusionary zoning" program would allow developers to build above the limit should they include affordable units within a building.

The Department of City Planning staunchly opposed the initiative, with officials saying that affordable housing cannot be factored into zoning.

Borough President Marty Markowitz also supported the affordable housing amendment when the application came before him. Curiously, his appointee to the City Planning Commission, Dolly Williams, voted in favor of the rezoning proposal without an amendment.

Prior to casting her vote Wednesday, Williams made a speech stating her support for the amendment and its proponents.

"I believe that this proposal was not able to take into consideration the cultural, social and economic diversity of the neighborhood," said Williams.

"The nature of this action will benefit people who can afford affluent housing and those housing developers and property owners... Therefore, I recommend that City Planning investigate the feasibility of requiring inclusionary housing as a means to achieve cultural and economic diversity along Fourth Avenue."

Despite her pleas for inclusion of the affordable housing amendment, Williams ended by saying, "And my vote is yes [to the original plan]."

When asked about her ruling, Markowitz chose to ignore the status of her vote and commended Williams for the sentiments expressed in her speech.

"I'm pleased that Commissioner Williams supported my proposal for a study of inclusionary zoning on Fourth Avenue," Markowitz said through a spokesman. "I hope the City Planning Commission and the City Council follow up on this proposal."

The plan will come before the Land Use Committee of the City Council later this month and is anticipated to come to the floor in May, DeBlasio said.

— Patrick Gallahue

ALIVE...

Continued from page 1

bursting with pride, added, "For the last 19 days we have been on a roller coaster."

"You're happy one minute and then you have tears in your eyes," he said. "I can't describe how proud we are of this kid."

Smith grew up in Carroll Gardens and attended PS 58 on Smith Street, Holy Name

School on Prospect Park West in Windsor Terrace and the High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology in Bay Ridge. He joined the Navy right out of high school and traveled all over Europe including service in Kosovo. Joann Smith said her son was an avid collector of maps with an eye on far off places

as a child. But he has a huge following close to home.

On Sunday, Smith was mentioned in the Saint Mary Star of the Sea sermon, and since the story of his heroism first appeared neighbors have been dropping off flowers, yellow ribbons and cards, Thomas St. said.

"The people in this neighborhood are very supportive of us," Thomas St. said. "People who don't even know us say 'Thank you. Thank your son.'"

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Mom's got attention deficit

Q: "My 6-year-old daughter has a terrible temper. She drew a plastic knife against my boyfriend's throat, and threatened her 7-year-old sister and the baby-sitter with a kitchen knife. My boyfriend recently moved into our home, and her father is in a new relationship. She says she's not getting the attention she's used to." —a mother

A: When children have to compete for parental attention, they resort to anything from whining to outrageous behavior — as if to ask, "Hey, is anybody home? Does anybody care?"

Certainly knife-waving draws attention, is dangerous and must be stopped, but the

underlying cause needs attention, too.

"Kids will get their needs met any way they can, and if they are not met, it can show up in many different ways — as behavioral problems, depression, violence, perfectionism, physical illness," says psychiatrist Edward M. Hallowell, MD, author of "The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness" (Ballantine, 2002).

Don't look at the knife threats as a discipline issue, he suggests, but as the child trying to communicate something. She's running low on what Hallowell calls "the other Vitamin C" — connections with each of her parents.

"If you don't connect, you disconnect," he says.

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

Short amounts of daily, focused "I am here for you" time together often have a magical way of solving seemingly serious behavior problems, says Hallowell, the father of three children.

A preschool teacher is among Parent to Parent readers who agree: "This girl's actions are a loud, piercing cry for attention, and my suggestion is for her parents to give it to her. She's trying to say something to you and so far, it seems as if you are not listening."

Mary Jane Sale, PhD, a clinical psychologist, says when a child feels distressed, she needs appropriate ways to express her feelings.

"The girl needs a forum for being heard, for expressing her sense of loss and her sense of sadness," Sale says. "Her aggression is the best way she has of saying she is angry and in distress. She needs other avenues to express herself."

The girl needs to be told in a firm manner that it's not OK to threaten people with knives,

that someone could get hurt, Sale says.

The next step is to understand what's making her so angry, Sales says, perhaps through play therapy with a clinical psychologist. Also consider family therapy, with all four adults in the child's life.

Some readers suggest that mom's boyfriend moving into the home is an inappropriate and stressful change, and takes too much focus away from her two daughters.

"Disc the boyfriend," a mother says. "If the mom can start to give her 6-year-old attention at appropriate times for appropriate actions, I believe she will start to see some changes."

A mother of three agrees: "The child has become lost in your shuffle and she is feeling invisible, insignificant, hurt and angry, and rightfully so. Consider yourself fortunate that at the age of 6, she is able to articulate her concerns."

Her ideas for mother-daughter time in a "just girls" home: Go to the library. Walk, bike or drive to local parks. Plan dinners and cook together. Bake cookies.

Set aside at least about 20 minutes a day where your child has your undivided attention, suggests Hallowell, an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

Can you help?

"Q: I take meds for depression but my ability to make decisions about what to do next is screwed up. I keep going back to this question: 'When is it going to STOP?' — a teen-ager in Washington state."

If you have tips or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at p2p@p2p.net.

More schools exempt from standardization

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

Two more District 15 schools will be exempt from Mayor Michael Bloomberg's mandated curriculum for at least a year.

The Children's School, at 512 Carroll St., between Whitwell Place and Denison Place in Gowanus, was among the 31 schools announced this week, out of 253 that applied, to receive a two-year waiver.

In addition, MS 51, at 350 Fifth Ave. in Park Slope, while not officially announced, has been notified that it's on the list of 88 schools to receive a one-year waiver, according to the school's PTA president, Jonathan Wilens.

When Schools Chancellor Joel Klein named the original 209 exempt schools in January, including six from District 15, parents and administrators of schools left off the list were outraged. In response, the Education Department offered an appeals process for schools that felt they had wrongfully

been excluded.

The Children's School, which has been in existence for almost a decade, is a special collaborative elementary school between District 75, based in Manhattan, and District 15. The program, operated within the PS 372 building, mixes special and general education students. Class sizes are between 21 and 23 students, and each class comprises one teacher and one para-professional, said George Greenfield, executive assistant to District 15 Superintendent Carmen Farina.

The William Alexander Middle School, MS 51, can also breathe a sigh of relief that its arts-intensive curriculum is safe for another year.

"Though we're not on the list permanently we have been given the list temporarily with the expectation that we'll be on the list next year," Wilens said. "It seems to accomplish the purpose for now."

At MS 51, between Fourth and Fifth streets, each child takes intensive courses in one

of six different areas in the arts including vocal chorus, photography, drama, dance, painting and cinema studies. Children spend four hours of class time a week on their areas of interest.

Wilens said there was considerable concern among the parents that the mandated curriculum would cut into the arts program.

Education Department spokesman Paul Rose said schools were identified for exemption based on academic achievement, using city and state test results. There was also a push to present a diverse set of schools, choosing from both affluent and poor districts.

Of the 88 schools granted one-year waivers, 33 are new schools that have no available data, 10 have made significant academic improvements, and 43 are grant recipients that could lose their funding if the curriculum changed.

The new reading and math curriculum is just one part of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's sweeping overhaul of the city public school system.

Starting in July, the city's almost 40 community school districts will be replaced with 10 instructional divisions. Each of these divisions will be guided by one of the 10 regional superintendents who will work together at Education Department headquarters, at the Tweed Court House near City Hall, forming a "board of directors."

Each of these superintendents will have 10 local instructional supervisors, who will oversee no more than a dozen schools.

Under the current plan, District 15 covering Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Sunset Park, Gowanus, Red Hook, Cobble Hill and Windsor Terrace, will join Districts 13, 14 and 16, consisting of Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Greene, DUMBO, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Williamsburg, Greenpoint and portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant, to comprise Instructional Division 8, which will contain 82,593 students.

The new division will be headed by Farina.

Teen whiz nets \$20G from Intel

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

One of Brooklyn's brightest had her moment to shine last month.

Anna Gekker, a 17-year-old senior at Brooklyn Technical High School in Fort Greene, was selected among the top 10 finalists in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search, an honor accompanied by a \$20,000 scholarship.

While she is an avid salsa dancer and member of both the tennis and math teams, Gekker devoted the past 18 months to studying the positive effects of social interactions on the recovery time of rehabilitation patients.

It is that research, conducted at a center in Brighton Beach — not too far from her home in Bensonhurst — that landed Gekker one of the coveted finalist slots.

During a six-day competition starting March 6 in Washington, D.C., and attended by the 40 Intel semi-finalists, Gekker presented her paper to a panel of judges chaired by Dr. Anirvan Ghemawat, director of stem cell transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

"They treated us like kings," Gekker said of her trip to the nation's Capitol where she met Vice President Dick Cheney and Sen. Hillary Clinton.

She also had a chance to bond with the other participants, many of whom were from New York. In fact, just this weekend Gekker and several other finalists organized a mini-reunion.

What do the science superstars of tomorrow do at a reunion? "Nothing big, we just hung out at somebody's house," said Gekker.

Over the past 62 years, Intel finalists have gone on to receive five Nobel Prizes, three National Medals of Science, and 10 MacArthur Foundation fellowships. While Gekker is not thinking that far ahead, she does plan to attend medical school.

Born in the tiny former Soviet republic of Moldova, Gekker and her family moved to the United States in 1991 to escape anti-Semitism. Gekker's parents wanted to give their daughter opportunities she might not have had otherwise.

"I was always interested in medicine," Gekker told The Brooklyn Papers in February when she named a semifinalist. "It started when I was volunteering at Coney Island Hospital and I noticed that with the West Nile Virus that some people recovered while others didn't. I then looked at their age, gender, and other psychosocial factors," said Gekker.

In her own research in Brighton Beach, Gekker analyzed more than 1,700 patient records and through statistical analysis found that if a patient was visited for an hour each day his stay would be reduced on average by 3.6 days.

After devoting so much of her time to the project, Gekker said she is looking forward to



Anna Gekker

having a bit of a break, although she may return to the research one day soon.

With no plans yet for the summer (although she and the other finalists were all offered internships at Merck Laboratories), Gekker will be attending New York University in the fall.

Still waiting to find out if she secured a full scholarship at NYU, Gekker is hoping her Intel win might help her cause.

The top prize in the Intel Science Talent Search, the \$100,000 scholarship, was won by Junie Robin, 16, of Fort Myers, Fla. She received a \$100,000 scholarship. The other New York City winner was Chen Zhang, 17, of Bronx High School of Science. Four of the 10 Intel winners were from New York State.

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CLOSED...
Continued from page 1
There are far safer and more efficient ways for the Fire Department to save money that certainly won't cost any lives."
On Monday, Bloomberg endorsed the commission's vote, which starts the 45-day clock to notify the affected communities.
"We're going to make sure it's a very long 45 days," DeBlasio said.
The move to close eight firehouses would save the city \$10.8 million out of its \$3 billion deficit in the next fiscal year's budget.
Bloomberg agreed to form the blue-ribbon commission, rather than immediately close the firehouses, last November in order to get City Council agreement on a drastic budget modification. The seven-member panel was comprised of three Fire Department appointees, two Bloomberg appointees and two appointees of City Council Speaker Gifford Miller.
The City Council appointees voted against closing the firehouses.
The commission was an idea of Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky, who said the ideas put forth by the council, such as commercial sponsorship for firehouses, were dismissed out of hand by the Bloomberg administration.
"Unfortunately, it does seem that this blue-ribbon commission was a rubber stamp," Yassky said.
While the commission was stacked in the mayor's favor, Yassky and DeBlasio both

said after the ruling that the panel was convened in "good faith."
Throughout the process, however, council members protested repeated indications from the Bloomberg administration that the firehouses would be closed, no matter what.
Deputy Mayor Marc Shaw went so far as to inform the commission of the commission's "political ploy," indicating that the firehouses would be closed anyway.
The Fire Department's commission appointees were Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppa, who serves at the discretion of the mayor, as well as Chief of Department Frank Cruthers and Chief of Operations Salvatore Cessano.
The mayor's appointees were Stanley Brezenoff, a former deputy mayor in the Koch administration, who is CEO of Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park, and Geoffrey Canada, CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone.
Council Speaker Gifford Miller's appointees were Frank Fellini, a retired assistant fire chief and Brooklyn borough commander, and Glenn Corbett, an assistant professor of Fire Science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
The other companies on the chopping block are Engine 212 in Greenpoint; Engine 209 in Bushwick; Squad 252 in Bushwick; Engine 261 in Long Island City and Engine 293 in Woodhaven, Queens; and Engine 36 in East Harlem.

The Brooklyn Papers
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Future uncertain for Red Hook piers



Options are being discussed for the Red Hook waterfront.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Consultants hired by the city Economic Development Corporation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey this week introduced the community to a study that could drastically alter the shape of Red Hook's working waterfront.

"Red Hook plays an important role in the industrial character of the city, so we have to look at potential use on the site for industrial activity or the relationship of the maritime use on the site to industrial activity off the site," said John Alschuler, of Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler, the lead consultant on the project. "We have to look at recreation use, small extensions like Coffey Street, larger uses of Pier 6, which obviously abuts Brooklyn Bridge Park."

Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler is also the consultant for Brooklyn Bridge Park, a commercial and recreational waterfront development between Pier 5 and Pier 4 Street.

"We're going to look at the full range of uses as this funding process we're in gets large and then gets narrowed as we go through the process," Alschuler added.

The study will examine residential, commercial, industrial, cultural and maritime uses for piers 6-12 in the Columbia Street Waterfront District and Red Hook. Alschuler said the study would investigate the economic viability of different ideas, the maximization of assets, market trends, costs and revenue to make the plans possible.

In essence, he summarized, the plan will have to meet the needs of the borough, city and region with respect to revenue, jobs, viability and commerce. There will be opportunities for public comment, he said, and there will be meetings held to discuss updates to the study between May and July.

Last year, the Port Authority issued a joint request for proposals (RFP) with the Economic Development Corporation to investigate the "best possible use" for piers 6-12, on the waterfront between Atlantic Avenue and Pioneer Street.

Peter Zantali, general manager for strategic analysis and industry relations for the Port Authority, said the agency had been courted by potential tenants interested in the piers over the last couple of years.

"[The Port Authority board] decided that it's time to take a look at the piers and see if the use we presently have for the piers is the best one," Zantali said, "as well as taking a look at some of these other opportunities, or these other people that have approached us for use of the piers for other things."

In recent months interest in the piers has been running high, with Carnival Cruise Lines negotiating for Pier 7 and Phoenix Distribution, a warehouse, distribution and sales company, interested in Pier 12. There have been additional applications for a zoning variance for 160 Inlay St. for a residential conversion.

Additionally, the Brooklyn Bridge park planners have long sought to incorporate Pier 6 into their plans so that Atlantic Avenue could become a grand gateway to the development.

While the RFP sought to have the plan complete by July 31, Alschuler said, "No extension" is not a term I've ever heard government use.

The Port Authority owns Piers 7 through 12, while the city owns Pier 6 and leases it to the Port Authority. In 2008, control of the pier will revert to the city.

Piers 6-11 are all leased or subleased, to American Stevedoring, a container shipping company whose lease will expire next year.

For years the neighborhood has been caught in a battle between supporters of housing and backers of industrial and maritime uses. Recent proposals for an Inlet at the former New York Shipyard at the corner of Columbia and Hallock streets, and Fairway at 480-500 Van Brunt St., have sparked fiery debates over the best application of the South Brooklyn waterfront.

The divergent constituencies, however, were relatively quiet on Monday night, except for a strong labor presence. The format of the meeting allowed only questions, no statements, although scattered throughout the audience were numerous employees of American Stevedoring, chomping at the bit for a chance to offer their comments.

"The Brooklyn waterfront has been supporting families for decades," one man shouted.

Some grew frustrated with the expansive nature of the introduction and sought more specific information although in a couple of cases, answers were given about what could be ruled out for the piers.

Asked about a Battery Park City-type development, Alschuler said, "One thing I'm not going to spend any time studying is Battery Park City." But asked to promise against some sort of waste-transfer hub, Alschuler responded, "That is something we can't do at this early stage."

To that, David Lutz, executive director of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, quipped, "How many petitions

will you need?" American Stevedoring owner Sal Catucci sat in the back of the room throughout the proceedings. Shortly after the meeting ended, Catucci told The Brooklyn Papers, "I don't think we're going to get a fair shake ... The only thing that I've heard is that they've come in here with a fixed idea of what they want. I'm hoping that I am wrong because I've got to worry about 600 guys

who work here every day." The city and state have also hired Moffatt and Nichol Engineers for maritime and port planning, Eng-Wong Tash and Associates, Cooper Robertson and Partners and Greenberg Consultants for urban design and traffic planning.

The Marine Organization, which previously represented the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, will handle public relations.

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Play ball!

Members of Sacred Heart Youth Program baseball league march down Summit Street near Hicks Street Sunday during parade kicking off their season.

CONCERTS...

Continued from page 1

to the public," Cohen said.

He would not comment on which performers were being suggested and referred questions to Young.

Young could not be reached for comment by press time.

Since opening for the 2001 Cyclones season, the 14,000-seat stadium on Surf Avenue at West 17th Street has hosted a number of special events including a multi-faith 9-11 memorial service, a professional boxing match, a Reggae concert and high school athletics, not to mention more than 35 home games each year. Cohen noted that none of those special events was of the scale of a 20-concert series.

"Depending on how our schedule falls out we'll decide on how many larger special events we'll have over the course of a season," he said.

Coney Island is already home to Borough President Marty Markowitz's Seaside Summer Concert Series, at Asser Levy Park on West Fifth Street and Surf Avenue, which last year brought Frank Sinatra Jr., Alan Parsons, Christopher Cross, former Cream bassist Jack Bruce, Mark Farner of Grand Funk Railroad, the Four Tops and ABBA, featuring some of the original band members.

Markowitz's 2003 concert series will kick-off its 25th season on July 10, and will feature a new show every Thursday until Aug. 21.

Asked about the Keyspan events, Markowitz said, "The more musical offerings the better."

"Brooklyn's incredibly diverse music scene just keeps on getting better and better," the borough president said. "From our borough-wide 24/7 Jazz Brooklyn festival throughout April, Celebrate Brooklyn, both of my free concert series during the summer and the hundreds of other fantastic music clubs and venues all across our borough, there is no doubt that Brooklyn is the music capital of New York City!"

Cyclones tix on sale

Opening Day and other single game tickets for the Brooklyn Cyclones' 2003 season will go on sale at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 13. Tickets can be purchased at the Keyspan Park box office or by calling the Shea Stadium box office at (718) 507-TIXX (8499).

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8p.m. Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual)

Friday, April 18th: Good Friday

10a.m. Morning Prayer

3p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

(veneration of the Cross)

7:30p.m. El Via Crucis en Español

(al fresco según lo permitan las condiciones del tiempo).

Saturday, April 19th: Holy Saturday

8p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Sunday

9:30a.m. English Mass and children's Liturgy

11a.m. Misa en Español

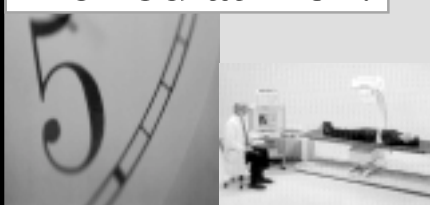
12:15p.m. English Mass

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Sunset Parkers still loathe the power barge

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Residents in Sunset Park are revving up to fight the power... again. Sunset Energy Fleet LLC has resurfaced with a proposal to build a 520-megawatt power plant on a floating barge just off 22nd Street, which has already set off more than a few sparks in the local community.

At an April 3 town hall meeting at the Grand Prospect Hall, on Prospect Avenue at Fifth Avenue, Sunset Energy representatives attempted to appease concerns and convince residents that Sunset Park was the only suitable location because of its zoning and ability to deliver power into South Brooklyn's power grid.

In addition, company officials said, the plant's position on the waterfront would allow it to be refueled by other barges during limited plant operation which, they added, would lessen truck miles on local roads.

But in an area that has been beset in recent years by the presence of smaller power plants and increased rates of asthma — in part believed to be due to the presence of the Gowanus Expressway, which hovers over Third Avenue — residents are saying "enough."

"This is a community that is already overburdened," said Elizabeth Yeampierre, executive director of the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE). "We don't need another burden."

Two 44-megawatt, natural gas-powered turbine power plants, operated by the New York Power Authority (NYPA), were opened in 2001 at 23rd Street and Third Avenue. Those plants emit 30 tons of particulate matter every year, according to NYPA. The particulate matter has been linked to heart disease and respiratory ailments such as asthma and bronchitis.

Community and environmental groups attempted to block those plants with lawsuits but eventually had to drop their claim when they ran out of money for legal fees.

In 2000, residents were battling the NYPA facilities at the same time as they were taking on Sunset Energy's initial plans for the floating power plant. The state Public Service Commission ultimately ruled that the energy company's application for the generator did not answer crucial questions about the plant's environmental impact, forcing the company to resubmit the application.

Sunset Energy representatives were received at the Grand Prospect Hall Thursday with a protest of about 50 UPROSE members, who held placards denouncing the proposal as "environmental racism" because the plants are being sited in a largely Hispanic community.

Elected officials such as state Sens. Velmanette Montgomery and Seymour Lachman, who between them represent Sunset Park, as well as Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez and representatives of Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Rep. Nydia Velázquez showed up with a skeptical eye on the proposal.

"Why would they do this in Sunset Park?" Lachman asked. "There are two power plants already, why a third one?"

Gonzalez and Velázquez also issued statements in opposition to the plant.

"Exposure to airborne pollutants has contributed to the high rate of asthma and cancer levels in our neighborhoods," Velázquez wrote. "A significant area of my district has earned the distinction of being labeled the 'choke collar.' This is unacceptable."

James Hall, a Sunset Energy engineer, said there is a need to meet increased demand and the only way to do that besides curtailment on use would be to increase gas turbine production at the Gowanus Gas and Narrows Generating Station — older, dirtier facilities located in Gowanus Bay and 53rd Street and Third Avenue, respectively.

The power barge will also displace a cement distribution business at the 22nd Street pier, which, the applicants boast, will take 1,000 annual trucks trips off local streets. The cement business would then move to the Port of New York Grain Terminal at the end of Columbia Street in Red Hook.

About 20 minutes into the meeting, however, UPROSE members marched out to resume their protest outside.

"These guys have been lying to us," Yeampierre said. "There's nothing to talk about."

While most people stayed for the entire meeting, none spoke out in favor of the proposal.

"I get the feeling that it is being built in Sunset Park more towards the ethnicity of the area," John Davaport, president of the 72nd Precinct Community Council, told Sunset Energy officials. "It seems like you're giving us a burden."

A copy of the Sunset Energy application, with a detailed environmental analysis and description of the proposal, can be viewed at the Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza, as well as at the Park Slope, McKinley Park, Sunset Park, Red Hook and Windsor Terrace branches.

Sunset Energy reps said Thursday's town hall was the first of several, which will be scheduled as the proposal is considered by the state's Board of Electric Generation Siting and the Environment.

The company plans to have the plant operating by mid-2005.



Let the games begin!

Despite the cold, wet weather on Sunday, hundreds turned out for the Little League opening day parade through Park Slope, to the Prospect Park bandshell. Above are members of "The Triple Crowners," a team in the St. Francis Xavier Little League.

SEAL...

Continued from page 1

havior seemed abnormal. But the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, which the Wildlife Conservation Society works from removing the seal or returning it to the water without consent from the National Marine Fisheries Service. To move a marine mammal back into the water, McClave said, requires a "letter of agreement" from the Fisheries Service, even if the mammal is ill.

McClave called the Long Island-based Riverhead Foundation, which is in possession of the letter of agreement, to determine if the animal needed to be removed for treatment or returned to the water.

Overall, McClave said, the prognosis seemed quite good for the seal.

"Judging from its outward appearance, it has no visible mortal wounds or anything

and it's certainly responsive," she said. "That's a good sign."

Several hours later, the Riverhead Foundation representatives arrived and that evening transported the seal back to Long Island for a check up.

Kim Durham, director of the rescue program for the Riverhead Foundation, said the young female harbor seal was suffering from dehydration, parasites and malnutrition but that the animal's condition and chances for a full recovery were positive. While she still refused to eat, as of Wednesday, she displayed hostility towards her rescuers, which Durham called a good sign.

This time of year, she added, seals would be shedding their fur and often fast, which makes them vulnerable to dehydration and parasites.

Seals have been found around the Hudson River recently, she said, and she encouraged people to call the Riverhead Foundation's hotline at (631) 398-9829 if they come across a sick marine mammal.

The Riverhead Foundation will wait for more veterinarians' results before deciding what to do with the seal.

It was back in March 2001 that a Bay Ridge high school teacher said he spotted a seal swimming in the canal on a lightly snowing morning.

While many skeptics doubted his story, some saying it was a dog or not an overactive imagination, aquarium officials said that the animal's condition and chances for a full recovery were positive. While she still refused to eat, as of Wednesday, she displayed hostility towards her rescuers, which Durham called a good sign.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

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Spring feasts

Party planning pros offer tips on how to celebrate holidays with more love and less mess

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Whether it be Passover or Easter, the special meals that these important family holidays include can be overwhelming — especially for first-time hosts or hostesses.

Happy there is a wealth of resources that can ease the complications of entertaining so you can focus all of your attention on delighting in your company rather than being tied to the stove — or worse, to the sink.

Disposable decor

At A Perfect Setting (140 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street) owner Jennifer Baron has amassed a carefully chosen collection of high-quality, attractive, yet disposable goods that make a gorgeous table while saving you clean-up time.

Forget the plastic, transparent cups of old. Their wine glasses (\$2.75 each, four for \$10), replete with stems, will twinkle in the candlelight, but they're still plastic so you can pitch them in the garbage when dinner's over. (And when your tipsy relative drops it on the tile floor you'll just laugh and call them a cab, rather than cursing them for breaking the family crystal.)

Similarly, the lovely dinner napkins can be discarded, negating the need to be washed and pressed before and after use.

If you're not ready to let your guests do a three-course holiday dinner off paper plates, why not use pretty paper dessert plates (\$3.25) with coordinating napkins (\$3.95) for a sweet ending? Maybe this will be the first year you actually sit down and share dessert with your guests.

Want a festive table runner by the buffet without worrying that your hungry charges will break and stain it? Try table runners (\$8.95) made of banana fiber. With six and a half yards of "material," you can cut it to fit the center of your table and a few other places, too. It's discretely disposable, so there's less cleanup and more chitchat.

The perfect finishing touch to any table is the centerpiece. For a wonderful springtime bouquet, Storm Mortensen Flowers (194 Court St. at Wyckoff Street) offers fresh, colorful, fragrant bouquets to dazzle your guests (or perhaps to create an attractive diversion from your burnt main course that's smoldering off to the side).

Your Storm Mortensen bouquet will be delivered in a substantial vase, so you don't have to worry about the arrangement or the

presentation, just the limits of your imagination when you place the order. These ultra fresh flowers are guaranteed to last for 18 days to a month after your event — serving to remind you of your entertaining triumph in the days to come.

For more information about A Perfect Setting, call (718) 222-1868. For more information about Storm Mortensen Flowers, call (718) 643-3205.

Organize, organize

Experts agree that when planning a dinner for a large group, your sanity on the big day rests on your ability to plan. If you really plan ahead, you can hire Gravesend personal chef Roberta Roberti to cook the meal for you in your home, so that when the guests arrive you need only heat the pre-prepared meal in the oven. You still have the joys of entertaining at home, without all of the resulting pots and pans.

Roberti's year-old company, A Whisk in Time, offers these services year-round, whether clients want healthy, fresh meals for their families during the week, or for special occasions.

If you insist on going it alone, Roberti has a few important tips:

"Organize, take stock of what you have and what you need; make a game plan; if you can prepare anything ahead of time, do that; if it can sit in the refrigerator a week, then make it," she says.

"The first thing I would do is create a menu. Give yourself as much time as possible. Make a list of everything you need and check to make sure you have it. Don't go assuming, and when you go shopping, stick to your list," she says.

Roberti suggests breaking up the meal preparation over the course of a week rather than trying to cook everything that morning.

"Know what you're going to do a week in advance, three days in advance, the day before, the day of, etc. Don't wake up in the morning and have 50 things to do," she says. "Make sure to enjoy your guests. You don't want to run around kitchen, sweating and tiring yourself. This way everything is done."

For a dessert that will make a great impression, Roberti says that in her Italian family a semifreddo ice cream dessert is always a hit, and a frozen recipe can be kept in the freezer for a week.

But, she warns, don't try anything new. "If there's something you want to make, try it out first," she says. "Recipes can be very deceiving. They can be harder, or more



Setting the scene: (Top left) A Perfect Setting on Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill carries a variety of festive paper goods from disposable table runners (\$8.95) to coordinating cocktail, lunch and dinner paper napkins (\$3.95-\$4.95). They also offer wine glasses (four for \$19.95) and carafes (\$24.50). (Above) Storm Mortensen Flowers on Court Street in Boerum Hill, uses only the freshest flowers in its bouquets. This elegant centerpiece of frilly parrot tulips, peonies and baby hydrangea in a tall glass vase is \$60.

time consuming or not quite what you're expecting."

For more information about Roberta Roberti's A Whisk in Time personal chef service, call (718) 791-0799 or e-mail whiskintime@personalchef.com.

Easy menus

Park Slope cooking instructor Jennifer Herman Clair is well versed in coaching novice cooks and says that this week she will even help one client through a dry run of the menu she created for her large Greek family so that she can flawlessly run the kitchen on the big day.

This former Martha Stewart food editor says the key to any holiday is preparing at least one or two dishes ahead of time, which is especially possible for Easter or Passover.

"For Passover, I do a lot of briskets," says Clair. "You really have to make them a couple of days ahead of time. You just put it in the fridge in the pot and skim off the fat, then pop it in the oven when guests arrive."

For Easter, Clair says that while maintaining family tradition will make most of your guests happy, any braised meat is a great timesaver. "Meat in the oven is not something you have to deal with," says Clair. "It's not on the stove top, for example. It doesn't have to be constantly stirred. You can leave them almost totally untended. They improve with age, especially osso bucco or beef bourguignon."

Hans is also an easy Easter main course says Clair.

"Most are cured and you just have to slather on a sweet, yummy glaze."

Clair agrees with Roberti that dessert is

another course where time can be saved but not at the expense of taste.

"A chocolate torte, like meat, improves with age," says Clair. "It can be made up to two days ahead of time, and a flourless chocolate torte is perfect for Passover." Even better, Clair recommends taking advantage of the many Brooklyn bakeries — ranging from the mom-and-pop to the hoity-toity — where you can buy your style of dessert, and skip that baking altogether. (Clair is a fan of the new Blue Apron Foods gourmet store at 814 Union St. at Seventh Avenue.)

Clair says that although vegetables do have to be prepared on the day of, they can still be pre-cooked that morning to save you time later.

"You can blanch asparagus or string beans ahead of time: put them in boiling water for 3 minutes and then run them under cold water so they stay bright green. Wrap them in Saran Wrap, and then just heat them in a pan, with olive oil or butter and lemon juice, right before serving."

And last but not least, says Clair, don't be afraid to delegate. If your relative wants to bring a salad, let them. Holidays are about sharing time together.

After all, as Baron says, they're your family and they'll still love you if the wine glasses are plastic and the tablecloth is paper. With all that's going on in the world, these times spent with family are more precious and meaningful than ever.

For more information about Jennifer Herman Clair's private cooking classes, call (718) 783-0048 or visit her Web site at www.mecocolorny.com. For Blue Apron Foods, call (718) 230-3180.

ART



Egg-stra nice

A dozen adults and children gathered on April 6 at the Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, at 157 Montague St. in Brooklyn Heights, to learn how to decorate Easter eggs in the *Pysanky* (Ukrainian) tradition (pictured).

Instructor Susan Frazier taught the adults how to use the Ukrainian *kisloke*, or stylus, to apply wax to eggs, then dunk them in various dyes, to achieve colorful results.

Kids made sugar eggs, which were nestled into folded brown paper bags filled with grass to resemble a bird's nest.

Pysanky classes are also offered annually at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave. For more information about Garden arts and craft programs, call (718) 623-7200. For more information about St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, call (718) 875-6960.

DINING

Raising spirits

Union Temple showcases sophisticated kosher wines

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

If the thought of a pre-Passover wine-tasting event conjures up the image of a long table studded with syrupy cups of sweet Concord wine, think again.

On March 30, the Union Temple of Brooklyn, in Prospect Heights, sponsored a wine-tasting event. Manischewitz wasn't invited.

The tasting shocked the palates of those accustomed to uncomplicated holiday wines. It was conducted by Alex Speyer, a sales representative for the Royal Wine Corporation, a producer, importer and distributor of upscale kosher wines that was based in Williamsburg for 24 years before moving to Bayonne, N.J., in 2001, and Jack Katz, the proprietor of Paley Wine & Spirits, who sells the Royal wines year-round in his Park Slope liquor store.

"These are real wines," said Speyer. "They're sophisticated and complex. Some of the wines are slightly sweet, for dessert, but they're not the sugared-down wines people are used to."

In a short presentation, Speyer described the process of making wine kosher. "Kosher wines go through the same process as any wines from any country," said Speyer. "They use the same varietals. The only difference is, the entire process is handled by Orthodox, Sabbath-observant Jews." (Sabbath-observant Jews do not perform any kind of work from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday.)

There are two kinds of kosher wines — non-mevushal and mevushal. Mevushal means "to boil" in Hebrew. Only Orthodox Jews can handle non-mevushal wines, in sterilized conditions overseen by a rabbi. For mevushal wines, grapes, in the juice stage, are quickly brought to a boil then instantly cooled down. The process is called flash pasteurization.

"In ancient times, wine was used by pagans for idol worship," Speyer explained. "For Jews to differentiate their wine from that used in idol worship, they boiled it, which [they felt] rendered it unfit for pagan worship. So we boil the wine to retain the tradition." After a wine is flash pasteurized it can be handled by non-Jews and still be considered kosher.

Katz added, "There was a time that boiling the wine ruined it. It took the life out of it. Now the pasteurizing happens so quickly that the taste of the wine is still very alive. It has a sparkle."

In addition to flash pasteurization, certain conditions must be upheld for wine to be labeled kosher. Following ancient laws, grapes cannot be harvested from vines that are less than 4 years old. Every seventh year, the fields must be left fallow with no other planting allowed between the vines. All the equipment, tools and storage must be properly sterilized and used only for the making of kosher wines. No artificial additives, coloring or preservatives may be used. A rabbi must supervise the entire wine-making process.

While there were few disappointments, the wines mentioned below were standouts:

A fruity red Zinfandel from Baron Herzog wineries, in California, was full-bodied with a slightly smoky flavor and aromas of plum and cedar. This mevushal wine is a great choice with poultry and vegetables.

A slightly sweet Bartanura from Moscato D'Asti, in Italy, would make a perfect aperitif before a big Passover Seder, or as a light, fresh conclusion to the meal. This crisp white wine had a bright acidity with delicate flavors of pear, apple and melon and a floral-like aroma. Its handsome, deep cobalt bottle makes the wine a great gift. This wine is mevushal.

Another mevushal star of the tasting was a Chardonnay from Segal's winery in Israel. The wine was lighter bodied than some and was "not as silky as American Chardonnays."

See KOSHER WINES on page GO 4

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Acts of courage

Re-staging 'The Island' after 30 years, the end of apartheid and two Tonys

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In 1974, when "The Island" opened at the Royal Court Theatre in London, South Africa was in the grip of a repressive policy of apartheid. This season, as "The Island" opens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the world is in the throes of terrorism and war.

It seems that Athol Fugard's play about responsibility, sacrifice, freedom and oppression comes around just when we need it most.

"The Island" is a collaborative creation of Fugard, a white, South African playwright, and two black, South African actors, John Kani and Winston Ntshona. Although Fugard had written many political plays prior to "The Island," this was the first such collaboration in his nation's history.

The play was first performed in South Africa in secret, for an invited audience. After its London run, "The Island" was performed on Broadway along with "Stimela: The Story of a Boy, His Friends, and the Girl Who Loved Him," also by Fugard, Kani and Ntshona, where it earned Kani and Ntshona a joint Tony Award for best actor.

In 1999, director Peter Brook worked with Kani and Ntshona on restaging "The Island" at Brook's Paris Theater, Les Bouffes du Nord, and it is presented at BAM by the Royal Na-

tional Theatre and Johannesburg's Market Theatre, where Kani is artistic director.

"The Island" is a two-man, one-act play in which Kani and Ntshona play prisoners John and Winston, who are planning to stage Sophocles' "The Trial of Antigone" for the administrators and inmates of the Robben Island prison.

John is the director. He is eager and optimistic. He bullies and cajoles the play cynical, more passive Winston until he agrees to don a makeshift wig and falcons play the role of the brave Antigone, who defies her dictatorial uncle, Creon, King of Thebes, so she may perform her duty and bury her disgraced brother.

The parallels are obvious. Antigone's wig begins with a 15-minute mime of the two prisoners working in the quarry — digging, filling wheelbarrows, pulling and emptying the wheelbarrows, and then filling them up again.

The scene is no doubt intended to convey the brutalizing, dehumanizing labor of the prisoners, in order to make the audience feel it so viscerally they will be pushed almost to the breaking point. But this reviewer found the repetitive action more soporific than scary. In fact, it took several minutes to wake up sufficiently to pay attention to the rest of the performance.

But once this hurdle was overcome, Kani and Ntshona made magic. Their personal energy, as well as their synergy, was marvelous. Those of us who were not fortunate enough to see "The Island" on Broadway 30 years ago can



Brothers in arms: Now through April 13, John Kani and Winston Ntshona reprise their 1975 Tony Award-winning performances in "The Island," an apartheid-era play at the BAM Harvey Theater.

only imagine the effect of two young, vigorous men playing the roles. But as aging men of 60, with sagging chins and wrinkled faces, their courage is riveting and their charm is magnetic.

Kani and Ntshona perform on an almost empty stage. A raised, square platform represents the island. A few blankets become their beds and their stage curtains. They wear khaki shirts and shorts.

This minimal staging adds enormously to the production by focusing attention on the two men and their relationship. There are no distractions — either for the actors or the audience — and no release from prison or from pain.

"The Island," like all good theater, takes a specific situation and makes it universal. At a time when Americans are still reeling from Sept. 11, 2001, and when the fear of terrorism has led to the passing of the Patriot Act and the creation of a Department of Homeland Security, "The Island" asks questions we need to be asking ourselves: How precious is our freedom? How much freedom are we willing to sacrifice for security? And how much are we willing to sacrifice for our freedom?

Kani and Ntshona, who have both spent time in the Robben Island prison, certainly are men we need to hear — and to heed.

WHERE TO GO

THURS. APRIL 10

ELDER LAW TALK: Learn about nursing homes, Medicaid planning, asset transfers, wills, trusts and more. 4 and 7 pm. Greenhouse Cafe, 7117 Third Ave. Call: (718) 238-6500. Free.

FILE: St. Francis College presents "Analyse That," 6 pm, 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-2272. Free.

RED TAG SALE: Rally to stop the sale of SUNY Downstate Medical Center. 1 pm. Clarkson Avenue Entrance, (718) 270-2611.

HEALTH TALK: New York Methodist Hospital offers a talk, "Management of Hip Problems in Advancing Age." Open to those age 60 and older. Refreshments served. 4 pm. Brooklyn College Student Center, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 677-6432. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival presents "Student Film: Selections from NYU, Tisch School," 4:30 pm. Also, "Rosa Luxemburg" (1996), 6:30 pm. Also, "Robert Capa in Love and War" (2002), 9:45 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 955-2150.

CONCERT: Brooklyn College Brass Ensemble performs works by Dahl, Enid, Haba and Reich. 5:30 pm. Union Settlement Hall, 860 Broadway, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

RECEPTION: St. Francis College presents works by students of Ellen Hoyt in the exhibit, "Watercolor: A Study in Color," 5:30 to 7:30 pm, 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-2272. Free.

WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Economic Development Corp. offers a talk, "Growing and Surviving in the Designing, Manufacturing

and Retail Business," 6 to 8 pm, 175 Remsen St. Refreshments necessary. (718) 522-4600, ext. 24. Free.

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE: Help clean and green Prospect Park. Learn about opportunities during this open house. 4:30 pm. Littlefield Villa, 95 Prospect Park West. (718) 965-6960.

DOCUMENTARY: Video focuses on the demonstrators that took place at the Brooklyn Metropolitan Detention Center. 6:45 pm. Host at Brooklyn and Manhattan War Resisters League Community Bookstore, 145 Seventh Ave. (718) 768-7326. Free.

PLANT CARE: Root Stock talk on how to grow indoor plants happily. 7 to 8:15 pm, 297 Seventh Ave. (718) 532-1888. Free.

DANCE: Long Island University spring concert by the dance department. 7 pm. Triangle Theater, Flatbush Avenue Extension and Bedford Avenue. (718) 485-1015.

LOW BAR: Playwrights Reading Series. 7 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1110. Free.

SCHOOL UPDATE: Boorum Hall Association presents leaders from local schools who give updates on the latest happenings including: budget cuts, curriculum and community interaction. 7 pm. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, corner of Pacific Street and Third Avenue. (718) 853-9956. Rachel.

BRIC STUDIO: Sink or Swim. 8:30 to 9:30 pm. 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-2272. Free.

WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Economic Development Corp. offers a talk, "Growing and Surviving in the Designing, Manufacturing

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FRI. APRIL 11

CANCER SCREENING: Long Island College Hospital offers a screening for cancer of the mouth, head and neck. 9 am to noon. 339 Hicks St. By pre-registration necessary. (718) 780-2663.

JAZZ FEST: Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College presents the first annual New York City High School Jazz Festival. 10 to 6 pm. Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-5919. Free.

BEADMAKING COURSE: Urban Glass hosts an advanced bead-making weekend. \$450. 11 am to 4 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. 447 Fulton St. (718) 625-3685.

BAMCINEMATEK: Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival presents "The Inner Tour" (2001), 4 pm. Also, "The Way We Were" (1973), 6:15 pm. Q & A with screenwriter Arthur Hailey and Foster Hirsch follows screening. Also, short film "Rose Job" (2001). Also, "In the Mirror of Mayan Dances" (2002), 9:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 955-2150.

RECEPTION: English Galleries presents "Beyond the Glass," 6 to 9 pm. 45 State St. (718) 596-0850. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents McQueen's readings with Eric Bogosian. 5:30 to 7 pm. 70 North 5th St. (718) 522-1882.

OPENING: The Third Floor presents "Famous Morality Paper Heroes," artworks by Geoff Grogan. 7 to 9 pm. 94 Ninth St. (718) 489-0106. Free.

FISH TALK: Brooklyn Aquarium Society hosts author Ian Fuller in a talk, "Catfish Sex: From Top to Bottom." Also, fish and plant auction. \$5. free for members. Refreshments served. 7:30 pm. New York Aquarium, West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 837-4455.

CONCERT: The Concord Baptist Church of Christ and The Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium present "The Dr. Barry Harris 2003 Lenten Piano Invitational Concert." 7:30 pm. 833 Gardner Taylor Blvd. (718) 622-1818. Free.

CONCERT: PS 154 hosts its annual fundraiser. Pianist, composer and producer Bruce Barth joins with his trio. 5:15, 10 seniors, 55 children. 7:30 pm. John Jay High School, 237 Seventh Ave. (718) 330-9333.

VEGAN POTLUCK: at Park Slope Food Co-op. 7:30 to 10 pm. Organize a diet to share with six people. \$2. 782 Union St. (718) 622-0600.

BAMCINEMATEK: chamber music of Frank, Debussy and St. Saens. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

CONCERT: Vox Novus presents a live performance of works by Rob Volney and other composers. 8:10 to 8 pm. South Oxford Square, 138 South Oxford St. (718) 398-3010.

BARBERS BAR: presents Last Town Church. 9 pm. No cover. 374 Ninth St. (718) 955-9177.

JAZZ: Music with Harold Qualey's Circle of Friends. \$20 plus set minimum. 9 and 11 pm and 12:30 and 1:30 pm. See Sat.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Junior League of Brooklyn invites the community to help out at a variety of upcoming events. Call for dates and information. (718) 624-3288.

BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE: "Dreadnought: Where Words Were Superseded," 6 pm. See Sat.

BAM: "The Island," by Athol Fugard. 7:30 pm. See Sat.

GALLERY PLAYERS: The Misanthrope. 8 pm. See Sat.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "Heaven Can Wait." 8 pm. See Sat.

BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE: benefit concert. 8 pm. See Sat.

WOOSTER GROUP: "Break Up." 8 pm. See Sat.

PLAY: "The Front Page." 8 pm. See Sat.

THEATER: "Two Rooms." 8 pm. See Sat.

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Ms. Directed

Female French directors get the screen all to themselves at BAM

By Michael Wells
for the Brooklyn Papers

Can you tell the gender of a movie director just by watching a film?

Such a question, in one form or another, is unavoidable when commenting on "Films de Femmes: Female French Directors," an 11-film series showcasing the prominence of women behind the camera in recent Gallic cinema. The series runs April 15-27 at BAM Rose Cinemas.

The answer, not surprisingly, is maybe. When comparing these works to the aggressive gimmickry of Hollywood, it is tempting to attribute their sensitivity to some sort of "woman's touch," particularly since all the femmes double as their own screenwriters. But if you stripped off the credits, you would hardly pressed to guess the chromosomal makeup of the filmmakers.

The meticulous analysis of emotion and relationships, and the preoccupation with the domestic and the quotidian, are longstanding characteristics of what might be called the "French touch."

That said, a couple of the directors unashamedly take on a subject avoided by most male story-tellers, the panic and confusion of expressed homophobia. The essentials of Anne Fontaine's absorbing "Dry Cleaning" (1997; screening April 15) are nothing new: alluringly threatening stranger insinuates himself into life of stud couple; relationship fault lines are exposed, bourgeois masks ripped away; emotions snowball out of control in a vaguely Hitchcockian fashion.

Fontaine and her actors keep the material out of a nut through moment-to-moment nuance, never more so than in one expertly discomfiting scene where the androgynous young drifter comes on to the husband. The tension, sexual and otherwise, tingles on the viewer's skin

like a flush of intense embarrassment—and plants the seed for an ending that questions who is most dangerous in this scenario.

Bolder in conception but bumpier in execution, "Beau Travail" (1999; April 23), by Claire Denis, is set in a conspicuously male world: an isolated Foreign Legion outpost in the North African desert, where the sergeant, jealous over the commanding officer's attention, conceives an irrational hatred for a magnetic, model recruit.

Unfortunately, Denis shows little interest in the sociology of this unique community, opting instead for frustrating abstraction. In strikingly short but interminable sequences, the buff-bodied soldiers train beneath the sizzling sun in formal, almost dance-like routines. Drama is replaced by the monotonous voiceover rambling of Denis Lavant as the obsessed sergeant. For most critics, this adds up to one of the great films of the '90s. For this writer, it's one of the most overrated.

Not surprisingly, Denis doesn't really bother the young man played hilariously by Mathieu Amalric, French film's current favorite icon of confused youth, in Daniele Dubroux's "Diary of a Seducer" (1995; April 25). But he believes that pre-

tending sex will help him win over a young woman (Chiara Mastroianni, French film's current favorite icon of confused youth, in Daniele Dubroux's "Diary of a Seducer" (1995; April 25). But he believes that pre-

tending sex will help him win over a young woman (Chiara Mastroianni, French film's current favorite icon of confused youth, in Daniele Dubroux's "Diary of a Seducer" (1995; April 25). But he believes that pre-

CINEMA

"Films de Femmes: Female French Directors" will run April 15-27 at BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$10, and on weekends, \$7 for students with I.D. and \$6 for seniors and children under 12.

A panel discussion will follow the 7 p.m. screening of "Dry Cleaning" on April 15. For scheduled showtimes and information, call (718) 636-4100 or log on to www.bam.org.



Deneuve's daughter: Chiara Mastroianni stars in Danièle Dubroux's 1995 film "Diary of a Seducer," which will be screened at BAM Rose Cinemas on April 25.

Taste of Others (2000; April 26). Co-authored with Jacqui's longtime writing-acting partner, Jean-Pierre Bacri, this romantic comedy spurs the usual cutesy artifice for bittersweet wit. The irresistible Bacri anchors the ensemble cast, as a dull, married businessman who is smitten with a stage actress and horns in on her art-world circle—prompting surprising life reassessments for both. Comparable intersections occur among the characters orbiting around them, notably a pot-doling bartender/waitress (played by the radiant Jacqui) who takes up with a strait-laced ex-cop. The principal theme is how personal tastes inform and erode personal relationships, but you might have too much fun to notice until it's over.

Tonic Marshall's "Venus Beauty Institute" (1998; April 17) similarly takes a "go with the flow" attitude and turns it to deeper uses. Veteran actress Nathalie Baye plays an attractive but lonely and emotionally brittle (and aging) woman, who is intrigued by a younger man's sudden infatuation. The majority of the film plays out in the titular establishment where Baye works, scathingly observing female and male obsessions with surface appearance, and by extension, the masochism of

faux romantic notions. Marshall dances fearlessly on the edge of such myths. It's a surprising film at once swooning and cynical.

There's little cynicism or sentimentality in Sandrine Veysset's "Will It Snow for Christmas?" (1996; April 22). Little plot either, just the day-to-day lives of an unmarried mother and her seven children on a rural farm, where they wait for the children's father. The film's greatest

pleasure is the tough but joyous devotion binding the heroine to her brood, each of whom is an enchanting, full-blooded character.

Veysset refuses to either gloss over or judge the mother's guilt-ridden inability to tear herself and her family from the clutches of the psychologically abusive lover/patriarch. Such a short description does an injustice to a movie so tender, fierce and gloriously alive. Even though not all of the "Films de Femmes" were available for review, "Will It Snow?" seems unbeatable as the best of the pack.

The strangest and most troubling, though, is Laetitia Masson's "For Sale" (1998; April 18), which deconstructs that very "masculine" genre, the detective film. The story begins with a private eye, complete with glum voiceover narration, hired to track down a jilted friend's runaway bride. Intermixed with the pursuit, flashbacks reveal the sordid, self-destructive sexual history of the young woman (the odd and unattractive Sandrine Kiberlain). It's like getting the neglected backstory for one of those frigid femmes fatales of mystery fiction.

It also indirectly exposes, to himself and to the audience, the detective's own dysfunction and misogyny. The conceit sometimes seems in danger of derailing—Masson straddles, and occasionally gets stuck on, the fence between naturalism and arty stylization. It is powerful stuff, all the same.

If there's one telltale sign that all the movies were made by women, it's their vast gallery of rounded, complex female characters. These filmmakers refuse to create stereotypes, or perhaps it never occurs to them in the first place.

PERFORMANCES

DANCE: Theatre Shakers presents "Animal Rhythms: The Day It Rained and Jackal and Here." African folktales told through dance, sounds and storytelling. \$10, \$8 kids, 1 p.m. Brooklyn Arts Exchange, 421 Fifth Ave. (212) 715-1914.

CBCE: James Sewell Ballet troupe mixes classical ballet, modern dance and vaudeville. Dance to "Lower," created in honor of Richard Rodgers' centennial. \$30, 2 p.m. Wall Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE: "Dreamscape: Where Words Power Superstitions." \$15, 5 p.m. members, \$8 nonmembers, 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 951-4500.

DANCE: Canon Eule Dance presents "Clean Springing 2," celebrating the spring of spring. \$10, 8 p.m. Williamsburg Art Nexus, 205 North Seventh St. (718) 599-7997.

PLAY: St. Francis College Troupers "The Front Page." \$5, 8 p.m. 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-5272.

WOOSTER GROUP: "Shave Up," a piece based on Chekhov's "Three Sisters." \$37.50, 8 p.m. St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. (718) 858-2424.

JAZZ: As part of Brooklyn's Jazz Fest, Brooklyn Conservatory of Music presents jazz violinist John Blake, Jr. \$20, \$15 seniors and students, 8 p.m. 55 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300. Also, Brooklyn Music School presents The Arturo O'Farrill Quartet, 7 p.m. Call for ticket info. 126 St. Felix St. (718) 907-0878.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "Heaven Can Wait." \$10, \$8 seniors and children, 8 p.m. 26 Willow Place. (718) 237-9831.

BARBERS BAR: Footloose and Uncle Moon. 9 p.m. No cover. 314 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew Ha at Boulevard Bar. \$5 admission, one drink minimum. 9 p.m. 273 Smith St. (718) 624-8878.

TWO BOOTS: The New Dime B-Liners perform. No cover. 10 p.m. to midnight. 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

CHILDREN

WATERLOO BRIDGE THEATER: presents improvised show "The Teddybearbaiters." \$2 for kids and \$7 for adults, 11 a.m. 190 Underhill Ave. (212) 502-0796.

PUPPETWORKS: "The Prince and The Magic Flute." \$6, \$7 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. 338

OTHER

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Flower Power workshop \$12, 8 p.m. 227 Tenth Ave. (718) 866-GOVIWANS.

CBCE: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents New York Philharmonic, \$30, 8 p.m. Wall Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

Flea Market: at Lefferts Park Baptist Church. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 524 14th Ave. (718) 331-1380.

TEA CEREMONY: Zen Center of New York City hosts a retreat. \$60, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 500 State St. (718) 230-7610, ext. 11. Free.

HOMEWORKERS TALK: NHS Homeownership Center hosts a talk for first-time home buyers. 10 a.m. 1 Hanson Place. (718) 230-7610, ext. 11. Free.

LUNCH WITH LAMBDA: Brooklyn's lesbian, gay, bisexual political club. 25th anniversary event. \$75 general admission. 11:30 a.m. Gage and Tollner, 272 Fulton St. (718) 875-5181.

READING: Brooklyn presents a tribute to Allen Ginsberg. Noon to 4 p.m. The Gymnasium, 339 E. 4th St. (718) 489-3211.

MEETINGS: AARP Ovington Chapter meets. 1 p.m. Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults, 2935 Bay Pkwy. (718) 748-0000.

BROOKLYN WRITERS: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, hosts its "Brooklyn Writers for Brooklyn Readers" program. 7 p.m. Leonard Logans of WNYC Radio moderates. 2 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

LUNCHEON: Bay Ridge Business and Professional Women's Club hosts its 50th anniversary. Bay Manor. Call (718) 836-6774.

BANCINEMATEX: Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival presents double bill: "Mayor of the West Side" (2003) and "Are You This Able?" (2000). 1:30 p.m. Also, "The Front" (1973). 4:15 p.m. Also, "The Last Letter" (2002). 8:30 p.m. Also, "Keep on Walking." Joshua Nelson: The Jewish Gospel Singer" (2000). 9:45 p.m. \$10, \$10 Lafayette Ave. (718) 595-2150.

RECEPTION: Expressions Art Gallery hosts "A Prayer for Peace," paintings by Jean Moore Gray, 5 to 9 p.m. 954 Park Place. (718) 329-6556. Free.

RECEPTION: Five Miles presents an installation by Yoko Inoue

SUN, APRIL 13

Palm Sunday
OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WALKING TOUR: New York Transit Museum hosts a tour "West Side Wonders." 10 a.m. Times Square Station and the Upper West Side. \$20, \$15 members. Noon, call for reservations. (718) 694-5139.

URBAN GLASS TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment tour of this studio, gift shop and gallery. \$45, \$35 seniors and students, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Meet at 647 Fulton St. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

RECEPTION: Expressions Art Gallery hosts "A Prayer for Peace," paintings by Jean Moore Gray, 5 to 9 p.m. 954 Park Place. (718) 329-6556. Free.

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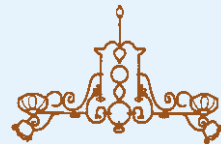
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Continued on next page...

Passover

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Wed., April 16th

Evening Services - 7:20 pm

1st Seder with Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin - 8:20 pm

Thurs. April 17th

Morning Services - 9:30 am; Evening Services - 7:20 pm

2nd Seder with Simcha Weinstein - 8:20 pm

Menu:

Hand Baked Shmurah Matzah, 4 cups of wine, Gefilte Fish, Fresh Ground Horseradish, Chicken Soup, Delicious Main Course, Side Dishes and Dessert.

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